

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 IO-13 /105 W
-----123283 261308Z /53

R 260800YMAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0360
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKARTJPC
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2360

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS PERP, PINR, NG
SUBJECT: FRANCO AFRICAN SUMMIT - NIGER REACTION -- SECURITY ASPECTS

1. PARIS SUMMIT AND PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE'S PARTICIPATION HAVE NATURALLY RECEIVED MAJOR PRESS AND PUBLIC ATTENTION HERE OVER PAST WEEK. HIGHLIGHT FROM NIGER'S POINT OF VIEW HAS BEEN ITS DESIGNATION AS PERMANENT SITE FOR FRANCO AFRICAN SOLIDARITY FUND. OFFICIAL PRESS HAILS NIGER'S SUCCESS IN THIS EFFORT AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF KOUNTCHES MATURE AND PRAGMATIC LEADERSHIP CARVING OUT LARGER INTERNATIONAL ROLE FOR NIGER. ON SUBSTANCE OF SUMMIT ECONOMIC SIDE OF AGENDA RESERVES PRIME ATTENTION. INTERALIA, THIS IS BECAUSE OF LONG STANDING SKITTISHNESS ABOUT COLLECTIVE AFRICAN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS MENTIONED IN COMMUNIQUE AND DISCUSSED AT PARIS MEETING.

2. EDITORIAL INSERT IN MAY 25 SAHEL GOES TO SOME PAINS TO POINT OUT THAT SECURITY "AS OFRN POINTED OUT BY CHIEF OF
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STATE" IS "NATIONAL AFFAIR". ARTICLE SAYS SECURITY FOR NIGER CONSISTS IN MODERNIZING ITS OWN NATIONAL FOFES RATHER THAN GETTING INVOLVED IN PACTS. BEING ON GOOD TERMS WITH NEIGHBORS, SAHEL CONCLUDES, IS BEST KIND OF SECURITY.

3. COMMENT: ALL OF THIS IS IN LINE WITH NIGER'S NOW WELL KNOWN RETICENCE ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN FLEDGLING WEST AFRICAN ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD BE OF DOUBTFUL VALUE IN MILITARY TERMS AND WOULD DRAW FIRE FROM LIBYAN AND ALGERIAN NEIGHBORS. KOUNTCHE'S MEETING IN PARIS WITH DEFENSE MINISTER BOURGES SHOWS AGAIN THAT HE CONTINUES TO SEE QUIET BI-LATERAL ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENT WITH FRANCE AS MOST PROMISING AVENUE TO COPE WITH COUNTRY'S REAL SECURITY PROBLEMS.JAMES

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 may 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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